THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The World Bank Report entitled "Doing Business in 2005" places India among the top 10 reformers in 2003.

(b) No composite ranking is given to India in the Report. The rankings vary according to the different indicators and no single criterion can be used as a proxy for use of 'ease of doing business'.

(c) and (d) The World Bank in its Country Strategy for India (FY 05-08) has suggested that to sustain the growth in the recent past, dramatic improvement may be required in basic infrastructure and investment climate. Major changes will also be required to ensure effective delivery of basic services in health and education sectors.

Fifth Round Table Conference on Panchayati Raj

1935. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that National Media ignores Rurai India and even when journalists are specifically taken on Government expenses to cover events like Fifth Round Table Conference on Panchayati Raj, none of the Reports of the Conference was published; and

(b) if so, in what way he plans to disseminate news/views about thorough spread of message of such Panchayati Raj Round Table Conference, which are supposed to be vehicle for taking the country to prosperity?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) it is because the mainstream print and electronic media are paying virtually no attention to a series of significant initiatives being taken by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj that the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Panchayati Raj has publicly voiced his concern at the excessive coverage given to even routine matters in the Petroleum Ministry and an absence of adequate coverage to major initiatives in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and that affect nearly seventy crore people in the country. Efforts had been made to facilitate the coverage of these initiatives. While these efforts have met with a measure of success, the fact is that media coverage has been far less than warranted for the importance of the exercise and its potential impact on the lives of the *aam aadmi* throughout the country. In order to make up for inadequate coverage during the course of

the seven Round Tables, the Press Information Bureau made a special effort to bring in media persons from Delhi to cover the ceremonial adoption of the 150 recommendations prepared through consensus among the Panchayati Raj Ministers in the States and the Center to ensure effective Panchayati Raj in all parts of the country. This has given a somewhat higher level of exposure to the endeavours being made in this regard but, in relation to the significance of this endeavour to the people of rural India, media coverage still leaves a great deal to be desired.

World Bank loan for modernisation of fire services

1936. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank proposes to give Rs. 1,000 crore loan for modernisation of fire services in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the project and the agency that would monitor the project at the centre; and

(c) the amount that would be made available to Orissa for up-gradation of their infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Due amount of M/s Rockland leasing company Ltd.

1937. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made as per the judgement delivered on 5 th December, 2001, by Hon'ble Delhi High Court in which they had appointed a liquidator to release the money due to the victims of M/s Rockland leasing Company Ltd. after the sale of the company's assests;

(b) the list of recipients of this money, State-wise particularly in Himachal Pradesh as many Senior Citizens had deposited their all pensionary benefits with such companies; and